



Project | SEARCH

Project SEARCH Kansas



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Presenters

Craig Knutson: Public Policy Coordinator,
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator

Beth Johnson: Director of Day and Employment Services,
Johnson County Developmental Supports

Shelly May: Employment Pathway Facilitator for Kansas
Lifeshare, Sunflower Health Plan



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What is Project SEARCH?

- Education and employment program for high school youth with I/DD in their last year of high school eligibility.
- Developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 by Erin Riehle and Susie Rutkowski
- Kansas has worked with Project SEARCH and has adapted the model so that young adults can use the program to transition from sheltered workshop and day services settings into competitive, integrated employment.



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What is Project SEARCH?

- Interns typically spend nine months immersed in a host business site completing three internship rotations designed to teach them marketable, transferable work skills.
- The goal of the program is employment for each intern- defined as 16 or more hours per week in a competitive, integrated setting, non seasonal, and earning prevailing wage or higher.
- Project SEARCH has a 69% success rate for meeting employment outcomes in Kansas; internationally, it has earned numerous awards and citations for their quality and innovation.



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Project SEARCH

- Currently over 300 sites worldwide
 - 42 states
 - 4 countries
- Recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including:
 - Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI) Platinum Adrian Award
 - James W. Varnum National Quality Award
 - Mentioned 5 times in National Governor's Association Roadmap



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Core Model Components

1. The outcome of the program is integrated employment for each participant.
2. Collaboration: Project SEARCH is a partnership with support and resources from Education, Voc Rehab, Community Rehabilitation Provider, I/DD service provider and family members.
3. The program is business led.
4. The partners provide dedicated, consistent staffing on-site at the host business.
5. Program focus is on young adults with I/DD. At least 75% of each class falls in this category.



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Core Model Components

6. Braided funding is in place between the non-business partners.
7. There is a total immersion of interns and/or employees at the host business.
8. A designated partner representative enters program data into the Project SEARCH data base no later than May of the following school year.
9. A majority of Project SEARCH interns are determined eligible for long-term follow-along services before the program begins or early in the Project SEARCH program.
10. The program site has a licensing agreement signed with Project SEARCH Cincinnati through Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



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Project SEARCH in Kansas

Project SEARCH was originally brought to Kansas by a grant from the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities in 2010

- First internship rotations began during the 2011-2012 school year
- Currently in our fourth year of internship rotations
- Sixty four interns are currently participating in Project SEARCH in Kansas for the 2014-2015 school year



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Project SEARCH in Kansas

Currently 12 sites in 10 Communities

- Wichita- Sedgwick County Government
- Wichita-Via Christi Hospital
- Newton- Newton Medical Center
- Salina- Salina Regional Medical Center
- Lawrence- University of Kansas
- Lawrence- Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- Manhattan- Kansas State University Student Union
- Mulvane- Hampton Inn at the Kansas Star Casino
- Chanute- Neosho Community College (Adult Site)
- Butler County- Butler Community College
- Derby- McConnell Air Force Base
- Johnson County- Johnson County Government (Adult/hybrid Site)



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Outcomes in Kansas

Data shows a 69% positive employment outcome for Project SEARCH interns in Kansas

- At the 2014 International Project SEARCH conference held in Omaha, NE last year, 21 Project SEARCH sites world wide (over 250 sites in 42 states and 4 countries) were recognized for achieving 100% employment outcomes.

Three of those sites were from Kansas.

Other Kansas sites were recognized for outstanding employment outcomes as well.

- What the data doesn't show: The change in perception of what people with disabilities are capable of doing.



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Other Kansas Partners

UnitedHealth Care: Empower Kansans Grant

- Funded the startup of the first adult Project SEARCH program in Kansas with JCDS at Johnson County Government

Kansas Department of Commerce: Disability Employment Initiative Grant

- Help to continue funding of Johnson County Project SEARCH and expand Salina Project SEARCH to include another adult site in the state



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Project SEARCH Kansas: The Provider's Perspective



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Alyssa McKinney

2nd *Johnson County Mental Health*

- **Filing Charts**
- **Distributing Mail**
- **Filling Copy & Fax Machines**
- **Organizing Office Space**





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Cole Cress

2nd *Sunflower Café*

- Dishwashing
- Cleaning
- Catering





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Jacob Jahraus

1st *Johnson County Records and
Tax Administration*

- Scanning
- Data Entry
- Mail



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Kyle Martin

1st *Clerk of the District Court*

Data Entry

Scanning

Quality Control





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Mitch Groszek

1st *Clerk of the District Court*

- Filing
- Scanning
- **HIRED!**



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Scott Kessler

1st *Sunflower Café*

- Dishwashing
- Food Prep
- Catering



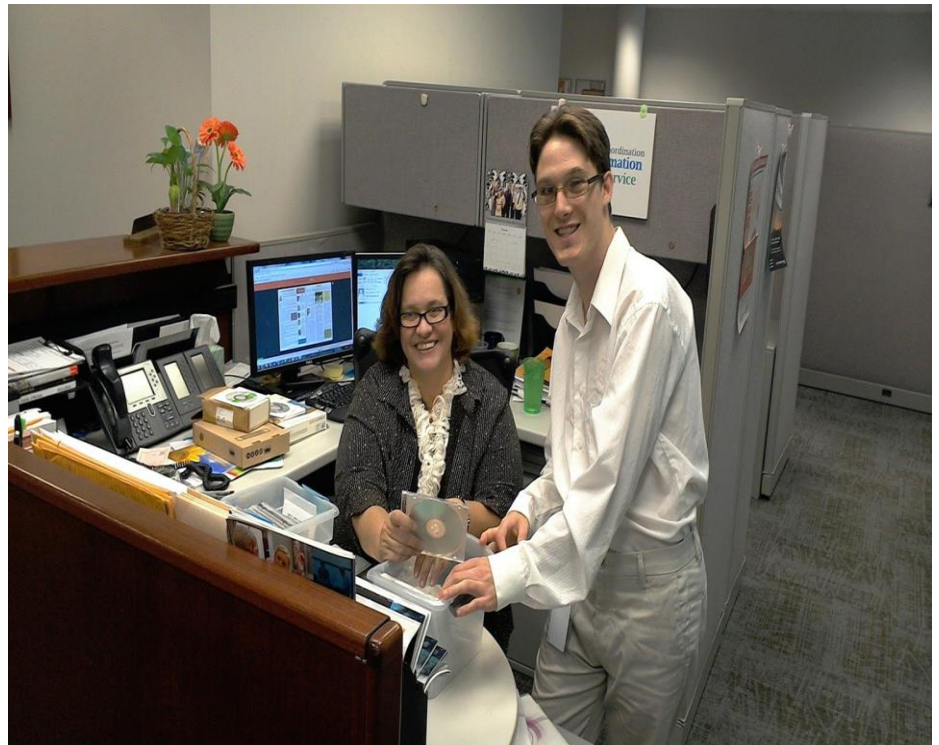


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Tyler Smith

1st *Johnson County Manager's Office*

- Customer Service
- Clerical Work
- Event Planner Assistant





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Project SEARCH Kansas: A Managed Care Organization's Perspective



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Questions



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For more information about Project SEARCH

<http://www.projectsearch.us/>

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